

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3, 5-12, 15 and 17-24 would be allowable if they were rewritten in independent form to include all the features of any intervening claim. Applicants have placed some of the features of the dependent claims into independent form (e.g., placed the features of claim 3 into claim 1).

Claim Objections and Section 112 Rejection

Claims 3 and 4 were objected to due to informalities. Applicants have amended claim 4 to correct its informality. Claim 3 has been deleted, its subject matter being placed into claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections and allowance of claim 4.

Claim 18 was rejected based on 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants have amended claim 18 to provide an antecedent basis for the terms "first set of metrics."

Applicants respectfully submit that the revisions to claims 4 and 18 are unrelated to the patentability of these or other claims.

Remaining Claims

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 13 to include features of objected to claims 3 and 15, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 4-13 and 16-24 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request allowance of claims 1, 4-13 and 16-24.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants hereby petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$120.00 extension fee herewith.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

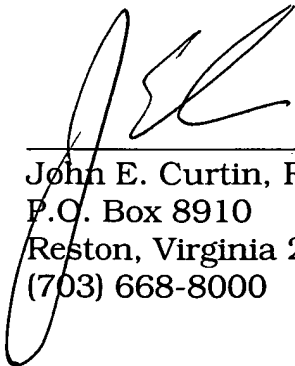
In the event this Response does not place the present application in condition for allowance, applicant requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 to schedule a personal interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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